

## MERTHYR CYNOG

CYNGOR CYMUNED

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### **Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 22 June 2015 in Merthyr Cynog Community Hall, Upper Chapel at 7.30 pm**

#### **Present**

Mr J Davies (Vice -Chair), Mrs H Price, Mrs S Prosser, Mr K Parry (also present Josie Herdman-Clerk)

#### **1. Apologies**

Mr A Lewis, Mr J Price, Mr K Williams

#### **2. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2015 were read and signed as a correct record.

#### **3. Matters Arising**

Broadband – Signal Boxes. Mr J Davies raised the issue of the large Signal Boxes, there was a scheme running where the mobile companies would provide these free of charge where there is no mobile reception available. It is a huge safety issue for children not being able to contact parents after clubs finish or in an emergency. Clerk advised she would find out what was happening and if these are still being provided. Mrs S Prosser stated that the emergency number 112 could be used when no mobile reception. Clerk to clarify and if it can signs to be printed off and displayed in the Hall and on noticeboards.

Further Broadband issues dealt with under correspondence.

#### **4. Correspondence**

**Pensions Regulator** – Letter received confirming new law on workplace pensions. Every employer with at least one employee must automatically enrol into a pension scheme. A Contact has to be nominated by 31 July 2015. Councillors unanimously agreed that nominated contact should be the Clerk – Mrs J Herdman. All correspondence will then be sent to her address. Councillors queried whether there is an opt out possible, Clerk informed that there is for the employee but no opt out for employer.

**Broadband** – £3000 grant available for businesses to help with installation of Superfast Broadband and information day being held in Brecon. Clerk to put on Facebook page to make local residents aware should anyone wish to attend.

**Broadband** – Email also received from Kirsty Williams AM confirming that the Merthyr Cynog Exchange is due to be upgraded by the end of September 2015. She also confirmed that as there is a possible date, the Welsh Government Grant may not be available to us. She has asked for confirmation from BT if they are on track with the Merthyr Cynog Exchange and will be in touch as soon as a reply is received. - NOTED

**Powys CC – LDP – June 2015.** There is a new consultation period opened regarding the Local Development Plan. Councillors stated that they would go and see the new plans and report back any comments to be made at the next meeting.

**Powys CC – Waste and Recycling Update.** 14/15 Achieved Target of 52%. Rate for 15/16 is 58% there has also been a review of materials – from 1<sup>st</sup> June PCC will no longer collect plastic film – Clerk to put in next newsletter and advertise the fact on Facebook. Mr J Davies enquired about the possibility of having a bottle bank in Merthyr Cynog village. The one in Upper Chapel provides revenue for the Community Hall and would like one in Merthyr Cynog to do the same. – Clerk to write to PCC

**Powys County Council – Public Transport Consultation.** Clerk informed that the consultation is online. Councillors stated that there is no Public Transport in our area. However agreed they would like to raise the point that there seems to be a lot of empty buses travelling around Brecon town which would not be cost effective need to ensure value for money – Clerk to complete survey to that effect.

**Powys CC – Road Closure** at Pont ar Yscir for essential works to Bridge. – NOTED

**Powys CC – Community Delivery,** update email – NOTED

**Welsh Assembly Government – Access to Information on Community and Town Councils STATUTORY GUIDANCE.** From 1 May 2015 all information must be made available electronically. Merthyr Cynog Community Council already has a website where minutes, agendas, accounts and all other information are published. Councillor's information needs updating in places – Clerk to update where necessary.

**Kirsty Williams AM - Secondary School Reorganisation,** explained what she has been doing regarding this and upcoming meetings. Will keep Merthyr Cynog Community Council updated with information. Mr J Davies requested that Kirsty Williams AM attend our September 2015 meeting to explain exactly what is happening. – Clerk to action.

5. **Roads, Bridges and Highways**

Nothing to report.

6. **Finance**

The Clerk updated members on the financial position of the Council.

The Clerk presented the completed Section 2 – Annual Governance Statement, the Council approved the following statement of assurance to specific questions:

- 1) Yes
- 2) Yes
- 3) Yes
- 4) Yes
- 5) Yes
- 6) Yes
- 7) Yes
- 8) Yes
- 9) N/A

The Council considered the annual return and authorised the Clerk to send a copy of the Sections 1, 2 and 4 of the Annual Return to the external auditor.

Mr J Davies as Vice-Chairman signed the Council approval prior to audit section on the requested page of the audit document.

7. **Planning and Environment**

**Erection of a detached garage with accommodation above Old Parish Rooms, Merthyr Cynog:**

Councillors unanimously agreed that further clarification should be obtained from the planning officer with regard to the size and siting of the garage and the intended future use of the accommodation. Clerk to write to Planning officer.

8. **Any other Business**

Mrs S Prosser raised the possibility of moving meetings to a Sunday evening, would this make things easier for Councillors to attend? The four councillors present agreed that this should be discussed further at the next meeting.

9. **Next Meeting**

Next Meeting to be held on Monday 6 July 2015 (unless otherwise informed)

Signed..... Dated.....